



Dana E. Blackwell
Executive Director

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

COMMISSIONERS:
CAROL O. BIONDI, VICE CHAIR
PATRICIA CURRY
HON. JOYCE FAHEY
HELEN A. KLEINBERG
DAISY MA, VICE CHAIR
DR. LA-DORIS MCCLANEY
SANDRA RUDNICK
ADELINA SORKIN, LCSW/ACSW
DR. HARRIETTE F. WILLIAMS, CHAIR
STACEY F. WINKLER

APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **May 2, 2005**, in room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim transcription of events at this meeting.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Carol O. Biondi
Joyce Fahey
Helen Kleinberg
Daisy Ma
Dr. La-Doris McClaney
Sandra Rudnick
Adelina Sorkin
Dr. Harriette Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Patricia Curry
Stacey F. Winkler

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the May 2, 2005 meeting was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the March 21, 2005 general meeting were unanimously approved. The minutes for April 4, 2005 were unanimously approved with corrections.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- Chair Williams recognized the participation of Deputy Director Jackie Acosta, DCFS on behalf of the Department in the absence of Dr. Sanders.
- Chair Williams recognized the death of former Supervisor Dean Dana. A letter of condolence was sent to his family on behalf of the Commission.
- Chair Williams recognized the resignation of Commissioner Hurewitz and the loss that his presence represents to the Commission.
- Chair Williams acknowledged the appointment of Stacey F. Winkler to the Commission representing the Fifth District.
- Chair Williams congratulated the Department on their most recent publications. She requested that the Commission be acknowledged in an upcoming publication.
- Chair Williams acknowledged the interim appointment of Amarylis Watkins as a Deputy Director for the Department for SPAs 4, 5, and 6 as well as the Command Post.
- A second meeting of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) took place in April. Chair Williams acknowledged Commissioner Kleinberg's work on the ECCs planning committee. The meeting was well attended by staff of LAUSD and LACOE. The next meeting will take place in July. The core values of the ECC have not been finalized and Chair Williams will bring them back to the Commission when appropriate.
- The Los Angeles County Health Care Summit will take place on May 24th at USC Davidson Hall.
- The Child Welfare League of America conference will take place June 20-23rd in Pasadena. Chair Williams encouraged Commissioner participation.
- Chair Williams reported on the scheduled meeting with DCFS staff on training. She felt that the meeting was very worthwhile and expressed her satisfaction with the presentation. Commissioners Kleinberg, Rudnick and Sorkin were present at the meeting as was Dana Blackwell. Commissioner Kleinberg agreed that it was worthwhile but expressed her concern that culture change seems to be an initiative rather than the context of all training. The Commission was invited to a training evaluation on May 20, 2005 at Davidson Center.
- Chair Williams asked that Commissioners examine their schedules for August in order to determine whether to have one or two meetings during that month.
- Commissioner Sorkin and Kleinberg requested that Dr. Sanders report on the Department's Fact Sheet at a future Commission meeting. Ms. Blackwell will coordinate. Commissioner Sorkin requested that the Commission formulate a letter to the Board of Supervisors to advocate to the State to continue to fund AB 3632. Chair Williams encouraged her to bring a letter forward for the Commission to consider. She further indicated that the Commission will be considering other important child welfare legislation at an upcoming meeting.
- Commissioner Sorkin expressed her concern that the submission date for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families RFP has been extended to May 20, 2005 and that next year's funding will be 11 months instead of 12 months. Lisa Parrish, DCFS, stated that in response to concerns expressed by providers about the compressed timeline, Dr. Sanders requested and received a one month extension from the state. Current funding will be extended through July, thus creating an 11 month funding cycle. Commissioner Sorkin continued to express her disappointment with the Department's efforts to comply with the legislation and how this process impacts providers.

APPRECIATION DAY:

- Mary Fink was honored and recognized for providing care to 59 foster youth over 21 years and providing permanency to three foster youth through adoption.
- Trinity Wallace-Ellis was honored and recognized for her advocacy on behalf of children and families while serving as the Commission's Foster Youth Representative.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **300/600 Committee:** Vice Chair Biondi reported that the committee is working toward developing a plan to address AB 129. Ms. Parish added that an initial draft has been developed. At the insistence of the committee, the second draft will include a prevention focus. Vice Chair Biondi stated that the START units are not at service capacity. The population that would be served under dual jurisdiction is between 700 -800 youth. Judge Nash's Crossover Committee has been put on hold until a more concrete plan is developed. Miriam Krinsky, CLC, added that CWLA has agreed to provide the county with technical assistance to develop such a plan.
- **Children's Planning Council (CPC):** Commissioner Rudnick reported that CPC and First 5 are working together to convene a School Readiness Summit to promote school readiness indicators. The summit will take place on May 13th. In response to a BOS order, CPC is producing a report outlining the condition of children in probation. Additionally, they are working to enhance the Safe Surrender law and public knowledge of the law. Commissioner Rudnick further outlined the CPCs current legislative concerns and the state budget.
- **Agency Court Cooperation:** Commissioner Sorkin stated that the committee, headed by Judge Nash, has worked on accountability with the Regional Centers and the referral process. He will be convening work groups to address visitation and housing issues.
- **Child Care Policy Roundtable:** Commissioner Sorkin indicated that the Roundtable is also interested in the state budget and a letter was forwarded to and accepted by the BOS. She represents the Roundtable on the New Directions Task Force.
- **DCFS Advocates Committee:** Chair Williams indicated that this committee is led by Joan Smith, DCFS, to examine the legal issues related to relative care. Ms. Smith is reexamining the committee's goals and directions at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation to the Board of Supervisors – Continuum of Care: Commissioner Kleinberg presented the draft continuum of care: County Community Continuum of Care, C4 (Continuum). Commissioners Curry and Rudnick participated in its development. Dr. Sanders, Lari Sheehan and Kathy House have reviewed the Continuum and have provided input. She explained that the Continuum is an integration of the recommendations from the three work groups into a seamless service delivery system. The 1992 Family Preservation Continuum of Care was used as both a conceptual and contextual reference. The Continuum is graphically depicted in three diagrams that attempt to show how the county and the community can partner to provide the needed services to ensure children and families are safe, stable and healthy. Commissioner Kleinberg explained that this Continuum is based on the same principles presented in the 1992 Continuum. Each Commissioner received the list of Continuum Principles. She then provided an explanation of each of the three diagrams and how each of the elements is critical in helping families.

Commissioner Sorkin asked how this continuum concept fit with how the Service Integration Branch (SIB) envisions providing services through the integration of county agencies and services. Lari Sheehan, SIB, believes both are aligned and provide a blueprint for implementation. Commissioner Kleinberg expressed the need for the county and the community to begin talking the same language and working together toward the same goals. It is her hope that the Continuum will move people in that direction. Ms. Acosta suggested that the diagrams need to illustrate more clearly that the work of all county agencies must take place in the context of the community.

Commissioner Sorkin questioned the diagrams depiction of family based on the county's definition of family which could limit who would receive the services identified in the Continuum. Commissioner Kleinberg agreed – the word family will replace the graphic. Some discussion ensued about whether an emancipated youth would receive services based on this definition. Ms. Wallace-Ellis commented on the need for culture change so that families are assisted in a supportive manner especially at critical stages of need.

Commissioner Kleinberg highlighted additions to the diagrams that were not on the diagrams distributed to Commissioners and audience participants. Chair Williams asked what the Commission would request of the BOS when this is presented. Commissioner Kleinberg indicated that further discussion needed to take place with SIB to understand their role in the implementation of the Continuum before that could be determined. Additionally she stated that she felt it was appropriate for the Commission, as advisor's to the BOS, to present its vision for how services should be provided to children and families. **Commissioner Sorkin put forth a motion to accept the concept of the Continuum and recommends that it is developed further. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request for public comment.

MEETING ADJOURNED